1. (Amended) A method of increasing the power handling capability of a power line, the method comprising:

providing a conductor configured to transmit energy intermediate plural locations;

supporting the conductor at a plurality of positions intermediate the locations, the supporting at a plurality of positions defining a plurality of spans within the conductor;

creating a model of the conductor following the supporting step;

identifying a critical span within the modelled conductor;

altering the modelled conductor responsive to the identifying step; and

analyzing the modelled conductor following the altering step.

2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising analyzing the modelled conductor at an increased operating condition and the identifying [being] step is responsive to the analyzing the modelled conductor at the increased operating condition.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein the altering [the conductor] step includes at least one of removing a portion of the modelled conductor and adjusting the positioning of one of the clamps [within] relative to the modelled conductor.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising identifying another critical span following the analyzing step.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising [repeating the altering and analyzing following the identifying the another critical span] altering the conductor following the analyzing step.

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7. (Amended) The method according to claim [1 further comprising optimizing including repeating the altering and the analyzing] 6 wherein the altering the conductor step comprises at least one of removing a portion of the conductor and adjusting the positioning of at least one clamp coupled with the conductor.

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the analyzing step comprises using a digital computer.

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 9 further comprising:

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creating a model of the conductor;

analyzing the modelled conductor at an increased operating condition; and

identifying a critical span responsive to the analyzing step, wherein the altering step is responsive to the identifying step.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 9 further comprising:

[analyzing the modelled conductor following the altering]

creating a model of the conductor; and

altering the modelled conductor, wherein the altering the conductor step is responsive to the altering the modelled conductor step.

12. (Amended) The method according to claim 11 further comprising:

identifying a critical span following the [analyzing] altering the modelled conductor step; and

repeating the altering the modelled conductor step responsive to the identifying step.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 11 further comprising optimizing steps including repeating the altering the modelled conductor step and the analyzing step.

14. (Amended) A method of increasing the power handling capability of a power line, the method comprising:

providing a conductor configured to transmit energy intermediate plural locations;

creating a model of the conductor;

first analyzing the modelled conductor at an increased operating condition following the creating step;

identifying a critical span following the first analyzing step;

altering the modelled conductor responsive to the identifying step; and

second analyzing the modelled conductor following the altering step.

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 wherein the first analyzing step comprises analyzing the modelled conductor at a maximum operating temperature.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 wherein the first and second [analyzings] analyzing steps individually comprise using a digital computer.

17. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further comprising [supporting the conductor using a plurality of clamps] altering the conductor following the first analyzing step and the second analyzing step.

18. (Amended) The method according to claim 17 wherein the altering step includes at least one of removing a portion of the modelled conductor and adjusting the positioning of [one of the clamps within] at least one clamp coupled with the modelled conductor.

19. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further comprising:

identifying another critical span following the second [modelling] analyzing step; and

[repeating the altering and modelling following the analyzing another critical span] altering the modelled conductor following the identifying the another critical span.

20. (Amended) The method according to claim 14 further comprising optimizing steps including repeating the altering step and the second analyzing step.